

CURIOUS CHINESE STORIES.

There is a well known Greek story of a penniless man, who, going out with a rope in his hands to hang himself, found a purse of money, which induced him to throw the rope away, whereas the owner of the purse, coming back to look for his property, and finding only the rope instead, straightway hanged himself. A still more curious tale of a similar kind is told by the China papers. In the native city of Shanghai, the parents of a young lady lately married, having fallen into distressed circumstances, applied to her for assistance, and her husband allowed her to give them a coat for the purpose of being pawned. The daughter, however, being anxious to render further aid, without her husband's knowledge secreted sixteen dollars in the pocket of the coat. The old man did not discover this, and took it to the pawnbroker, who, noticing the money on unfolding the garment, kept his council, and quietly advanced the two dollars.

Soon after, the husband discovered that the wife had given the sixteen dollars to her father, and made so much noise about it that the young lady disposed of herself by hanging. In this way the news of the robbery committed by the pawnbroker became known to the parents; and the old mother took the matter so much to heart that she poisoned herself with opium. Lastly, the pawnbroker, getting alarmed on hearing that his dishonesty had already caused two deaths, drowned himself in a well. This story is very characteristic of Chinese feeling in regard to life, and similar incidents not unfrequently occur.

Some years ago, for instance, an accomplished young lady at Canton, who had been unfortunately married to a coarse and brutal husband, was bewailing her fate to a party of sisters and female cousins, and declared her intention of committing suicide. On this, the other young ladies declared that, since such was married life, they would die too; and so the whole bevy of them joined hands together, and walking to a fish pond, deliberately drowned themselves. Again, three men, imprisoned in Hong Kong jail on a charge of piracy, determined to kill themselves rather than undergo the bother of a trial.

At some height in the cell where they were imprisoned was a small window guarded by two iron bars, and the problem which these worthies had to solve was how the three of them were to be hanged upon two bars. From the position in which they were found in the morning, it would seem that the third man had assisted the two others in hanging themselves by their tails from the bars; that then he cut one of them down by gnawing through the tail with his teeth; and using the dead body as a stool, to be afterwards kicked over, he had contrived to suspend himself. All this, too, was done so quietly as not to attract the notice of a sentry who was pacing outside beneath the bars.

THE LATE TERRIFIC GALE IN ENGLAND.

At Sheffield, besides many minor casualties, a druggist named Bingham and his wife, living in Arundel street, were both killed, the former instantaneously, by the falling of their dwelling, a very rickety old structure, ill-adapted to battle with the fury of the gale. Churches and chapels, and other public and private buildings in the same town and its surrounding districts, have been considerably damaged. By the heavy rain and consequent flooding of the Yorkshire and other rivers, large quantities of farm stock and agricultural produce have been destroyed. A little boy named Benjamin Storey, who lived at Armley, near Leeds, was blown into the river Aire, at Green bridge, near the woollen mills of Messrs. Gott, and was drowned. At Scarborough, a working plasterer named Henry Moor was killed by the fall of a stack of chimneys upon a house, and three or four of his fellow workmen were severely injured. The most serious destruction of property at Hull was at the works of the British Gaslight Company. About half-past two o'clock on Saturday afternoon week, No. 1 gasometer, a very large structure, was blown bodily over by the force of the wind, the surrounding pillars and stonework being also very much broken. The gasometer at the time contained about 250,000 feet of gas, stored for Saturday night's consumption. The huge holder fell over upon a pile of iron pipes, and was instantly broken to pieces. Scarcely had the gas begun to escape when the whole took fire, and the flames raged for about half an hour with

great intensity. In another part of the town of Hull a ropery was blown down, and three of the workmen slightly injured. A postboy from the Wynnstay Hotel, at Llanfyllin, was returning with his empty chaise, when he came to a part of the road where, usually, a tiny rivulet crosses. This had suddenly swollen into a river, and the man and horse were swept away by the tide and perished. At a farm called the Main, near Llanfyllin, the floods carried away two men who were crossing a field, and their bodies have not been traced. In Merionethshire the tempest was extremely violent. The valley of the Dee, from Corwen to Llangollen, presented the appearance of one vast lake on Saturday, and on some of the farms almost the whole of the sheep have been destroyed.

A violent storm swept over Rochdale, damaged property to a considerable extent, caused loss of life, and injured persons seriously. A portion of the top of Mr. E. Leach's foundry chimney, in Holroyd street, which was about thirty yards high, was blown down, and it struck the gable end of a house rented by Edmund Grindrod, a working man. Mrs. Grindrod at the time was engaged washing the ground floor, and three of her children were near her. The roof, the bedroom floor, and the end of the house were completely driven in, and the inmates buried amongst the bricks and timber. It was with considerable difficulty they were got out, and it was found that the youngest child, about eighteen months old, was dead, and the mother and the other two children seriously injured.—[Reynold's Newspaper.]

MARRIAGE OR CELIBACY.

THE DISUSE OF MARRIAGE IN THE UPPER RANKS OF ENGLISH SOCIETY.

A writer in the *North British Review* enumerates some startling facts in reference to what he terms "the disuse of marriage" in the upper ranks of that nation, and draws some conclusions from those facts which assuredly are grave enough, and deserve to be carefully pondered. His facts are these— and every one, we imagine, by reference to the last census and the annual report of the registrar general, can verify them or correct them for himself. The mere figures, however, are, we believe, unimpeachable. The number of women of mature years, i. e., above the age of 20, who must remain single, in consequence of the annual disproportion of the sexes in England and Wales, is between 300,000 and 400,000. The number of adult women who actually are single is 1,537,000, of whom 1,230,000 are between 20 and 40 years of age.

Of all adult women five per cent. (he argues) would naturally and voluntarily be spinsters; as a fact twenty-seven per cent. are so. Of women of marrying ages, i. e. between twenty and forty, in England, fifty-eight per cent. are married, thirty-nine per cent. are spinsters, and three per cent. are widows. In a word two adult women out of every five are single. It would appear, moreover, that a disproportionate number of these "involuntary celibates" belong to the higher and upper-middle ranks, marriage, and even pretty early marriage being the rule among the lower and middle classes with all who are not in domestic service. The writer traces the cause of this increase in involuntary spinsterhood to the spreading luxury of the age, and the too prevalent sentiment on the part of the indolent and self-indulgent young men in "society" that there are many other luxuries much more difficult to forego than the luxury of a wife and home.

STAGE ANTICS.

Some years ago, when Macready was performing in Chicago, he was unfortunate enough to offend one of the actors, a native American of Western type. This person, who was cast for the part of Claudius in "Hamlet," resolved to pay off the star for many supposed offenses. So in the last scene, as Hamlet stabbed the usurper, the monarch reeled forward, and after a most spasmodic finish, stretched himself out precisely in the place Hamlet required for his own death. Macready, much annoyed, whispered:

"Die further up the stage, sir!" The monarch lay insensible. Upon which, in a still louder voice, Hamlet growled: "Die further up the stage, sir!" Hereupon Claudius, sitting up, observed: "I believe I'm King here, and I'll die where I please." So the tragedy concluded.

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U. S. ASSESSOR'S OFFICE.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, INTERNAL REVENUE DISTRICT OF UTAH, Salt Lake City.

March 18th, 1868.

NOTICE is hereby given to all persons concerned, that the assessment, valuation, enumeration and income list for the District of the Territory of Utah, in accordance with an Act to provide Internal Revenue to support the Government, and to pay interest on the public debt, approved June 30, 1864, as amended by Act of March 2, 1867, is ready for examination.

Parties who wish to examine said list and make appeal, (which must be in writing,) can do so at my office at Hooper's Corner, in this City, on or before the 25th day of March instant.

A. L. CHETLAIN.

Assessor District of Utah.

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